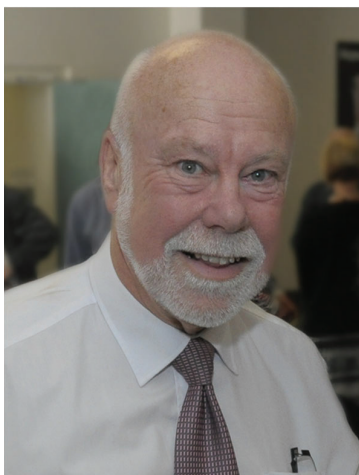


OBITUARY

Richard Ward



Richard emigrated from England with his wife Ann who was a New Zealander. Richard had a BSc(Hons) from the University of Hull in England and therefore sought a role in the laboratory. However, Richard joined the Waikato Health Board as a payroll clerk in the mid 1970s. He joined the laboratory in the Biochemistry Department around 1976 as a "Graduate Technologist". "Graduate Technologist" roles existed as an alternative to the Basic Training Certificate for entry into what is effectively the equivalent of a Medical Laboratory Scientist role. Richard obtained the position of Graded Officer Quality Control and that was the beginning of his interest and contribution to Quality in New Zealand. Richard developed what has now become the Waikato QA programme as initially a means of helping the regional "T" Laboratories (Rural Labs) in the greater Waikato catchment. The programme as it is today is in a large part due to Richard's combined skills in quality and business management.

Richard had a keen curiosity for things scientific and historical and had a broad knowledge covering many fields including horticulture, Roman history, metallurgy, apiculture, and chemistry to name but a few. Richard was a humble genius who led his staff with humour and care. He contributed a huge amount to medical laboratory science and to the laboratory community. Richard had a talent for identifying marketing opportunities and his innovative approach led to rapid expansion of the QA programme which has become well regarded across Australasia.

It was with great sadness that we farewelled Richard who passed away in September 2020 after a short illness.

Contributed by Ajesh Joseph